Brian Leslie

TE 448- Section 001

January 20, 2010

*This autobiographical poem was written about my oldest brother, Randy. Randy just recently turned 26, and was diagnosed with Autism when he was five years old. I can confidently say that Randy, along with the many unforgettable experiences that he has blessed my family and me with, is the primary inspiration behind my decision to pursue a career in special education.*

**Because of Him**

I knew my life was different

Because of him

I soon realized why

Because of him

I experienced unbelievable fear

Because of him

I was forced to grow up fast

Because of him

“Please be thoughtful of what you say, think of those around you”

Because of him

I have **unshakable**, **undeniable** patience and understanding

Because of him

Differences are not something to be avoided, scared of

Because of him

Being unique is a blessing, something to take pride in

Because of him

I am the person that I am today

Because of him

My life changed forever

Because of him……